

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 191130

15

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-05 SAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SCCT-01 /107 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:RR

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H:FLATEN INFO

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM:MCANDREW

NEA/ARP:DICKMAN

AF/P:POPE

NEA:GRIFFIN

----- 112216

R 030129Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 191130

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 191130

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 30

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT
PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE JULY 30
PRESS BRIEFING:

1. Q. - IS THE PLO RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING SECURITY
ESCORTS FOR THE MOVEMENT OF GOODS, MAIL, ETC., FOR THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT?

A. - SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, PLO ESCORTS HAVE NOT SO
FAR BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND MAIL. HOW-
EVER, IN BEIRUT TODAY EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THE SECURITY
SITUATION AND CONDITIONS AT THE TIME. ALL EMBASSY ARRANGE-
MENTS HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SHIFTING FORCES AND
ELEMENTS AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT. THERE IS A LIMIT TO WHAT I
CAN SAY ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE PRACTICAL, ON-THE-SPOT
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS THE EMBASSY HAS MADE OR MAY HAVE TO
MAKE IN THE FUTURE. EVERYTHING WE SAY AFFECTS THE SECURITY
OF AMERICANS IN BEIRUT. THE PLO IS THE PRINCIPAL POLICING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 191130

AUTHORITY IN WEST BEIRUT. THE LEBANESE ARAB ARMY (LAA)
IS, HOWEVER, ANOTHER AUTHORITY. THERE ARE ELEMENTS HOSTILE

TO THE PLO OR BEHOLDEN TO NO SINGLE AUTHORITY. IT IS A
TOUCHY SITUATION AND AREAS CONTROLLED BY THIS OR THAT
FACTION, OR IN SOME CASES BY THE ARAB LEAGUE FORCE, SHIFT
FROM TIME TO TIME. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, AND IT WOULD BE
IMPRUDENT, TO TRY TO DRAW UP AN EXACT BLUEPRINT OF EVERY-

THING WE HAVE DONE OR MIGHT DO.

2. Q. - HOW DO SUPPLIES GET TO THE EMBASSY?

A. - WE USE A VARIETY OF MEANS OF GETTING ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES TO THE EMBASSY, WHICH I WILL NOT GET INTO HERE. FOR THE SAME REASON I WILL NOT GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THE WAY WE HELP BRING IN ESSENTIAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR THE VARIOUS HOSPITALS OPERATING IN BEIRUT ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LINE.

3. Q. - WHAT ARE THE TYPES AND FREQUENCY OF THE RUNS FOR WHICH THE PLO PROVIDES SECURITY?

A. - THE PLO IS PROVIDING ESCORT PROTECTION FOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS WHEN NECESSARY IN PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS AREAS OF WEST BEIRUT, AS WE SAID ON FRIDAY. MOST SO FAR HAVE BEEN FOR CERTAIN OFFICIAL CALLS WHICH AMBASSADOR SEELYE MADE ON A NUMBER OF LEBANESE LEADERS IN BEIRUT. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE YOU DETAILS ON EACH AND EVERY OCCASION ESCORTS HAVE BEEN NECESSARY. THE EMBASSY MUST MAKE ITS ARRANGEMENTS ON THE BASIS OF ITS ASSESSMENT OF THE SECURITY SITUATION AND CONDITIONS AT THE TIME. THE PLO, OF COURSE, ARRANGED SECURITY PROTECTION FOR OUR SEALIFT EVACUATIONS AND WAS PREPARED TO PROVIDE ESCORTS FOR THE ROAD CONVOY WE ORIGINALLY HAD PLANNED TO CONDUCT ON JULY 20.

4. Q. - IS NOT THE PLO REALLY PROVIDING ESCORT AGAINST OTHER PLO ELEMENTS?

A. - THE DANGER THAT REQUIRES PLO ESCORT IS THE STATE OF ANARCHY IN THE CITY, WITH NUMBERS OF ARMED GROUPS OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 191130

VARIOUS TYPES AND AFFILIATIONS SOME OF WHICH ARE NO MORE THAN CRIMINAL GANGS. I DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO THE MATTER OF WHICH GROUPS MIGHT POSE A THREAT TO US. THE POINT IS THAT OUR SECURITY CONTACTS ARE MAINLY WITH THE PLO BECAUSE THE PLO IS THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENT IN MAINTAINING WHAT LAW AND ORDER THERE IS IN WEST BEIRUT.

5. Q. - WAS THE IDEA OF PROVIDING PLO SECURITY ESCORTS THE PLO'S OR THE US'S?

A. - IN OUR INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE PLO, OUR SECURITY OFFICER ASKED WHETHER IN LIGHT OF THE DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION THE PLO COULD PROVIDE SECURITY PROTECTION FOR MOVES THE AMBASSADOR MIGHT MAKE IN CERTAIN DANGEROUS AREAS OF WEST BEIRUT. THE PLO ANSWER WAS AFFIRMATIVE, AND

MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENTS WERE THEN MADE.

6. Q. - THE CALL WHICH SEELYE MADE WITH A PLO ESCORT: ON WHOM WAS THAT MADE AND WHEN WAS IT?

A. - AMBASSADOR SEELYE MADE MORE THAN ONE OFFICIAL CALL WITH A PLO ESCORT. THE BEIRUT PRESS REGULARLY REPORTED THE CALLS SEELYE WAS MAKING AND MOST INVOLVED PLO-ARRANGED ESCORT PROTECTION. ON A FEW OCCASIONS, LEBANESE ARAB ARMY (LAA) ESCORTS WERE ARRANGED. WE DID NOT ASK THAT SEELYE CABLE US A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF WHETHER THERE WAS A PLO ESCORT ON THIS OR THAT CALL.

7. Q. - WHY IS THE PLO PROVIDING THESE ESCORTS, IF THERE IS NO QUID PRO QUO?

A. - SO FAR AS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED THERE IS NO QUID PRO QUO. I REPEAT -- OUR POSITION TOWARD THE PLO HAS NOT CHANGED, AND OUR CONTACTS ARE LIMITED TO WHAT WE DEEM NECESSARY FOR SECURITY-RELATED MATTERS IN BEIRUT.

8. Q. - ARE THERE ANY ESCORT ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT WITH THE LAA?

A. - THE LEBANESE ARAB ARMY (LAA) PROVIDES THE SECURITY IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF THE CHANCERY AND ALONG UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 191130

MUCH OF THE SEAFRONT CORNICHE. THEREFORE, IT HAS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. WE HAVE NOT WORKED OUT TO DATE A SYSTEMATIC ARRANGEMENT FOR ESCORT PROTECTION WITH THE LAA; OUR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN INFORMAL AND AD HOC. THE LAA DID PROVIDE ESCORT PROTECTIONS FOR PART OF THE ROUTES WHICH SOME INTERNATIONAL CONVOYS TOOK WHEN GOING TO DAMASCUS. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE LAA CONTROLS THE BAIN MILITAIRE, FROM WHERE OUR TWO SEALIFT EVACUATIONS TOOK PLACE. I WANT TO STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE ELEMENTS THAT EXERCISE PHYSICAL CONTROL IN THE CITY, AND MAKE OUR SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS ACCORDINGLY.

9. Q. - WHO DOES THE LAA REPORT TO? DOES IT HAVE ANY TIES TO THE PLO? WHO CONTROLS IT?

A. - THE LAA IS COMPOSED LARGELY OF MUSLIM OFFICERS AND MEN WHO LEFT THE LEBANESE ARMY IN FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL AND ORGANIZED THEMSELVES UNDER LT. KHATIB. THE LAA IS BASICALLY AN INDEPENDENT FORCE, BUT IT HAS COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH THE PLO.

10. Q. - WHAT TYPE OF VEHICLES DOES THE PLO USE IN PROVIDING THE SECURITY ESCORTS?

A. - FOR A SMALL GROUPS OF VEHICLES, THE PLO HAS GENERALLY PROVIDED TWO TRUCKS WITH ARMED MEN TO ESCORT THE GROUP. ON ONE OCCASION, WHEN ESCORTING AMBASSADOR SEELYE ON AN OFFICIAL CALL, A VOLKSWAGON ACCOMPANIED THE TWO TRUCKS OF ARMED MEN. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THERE IS ANY FIXED PATTERN. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE191130
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:RR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760298-0693
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760891/aaaadcmb.tel
Line Count: 232
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 30 THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US
To: AMMAN
BEIRUT
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

